

Remark

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 16, 18, 23 and 26-29 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-32 are present for examination.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Hunter

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Hunter, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0059197 A2 ("Hunter"). Claim 1 is amended to refer to "retrieving an encoded mask vector from a mask table, the encoded mask vector corresponding to an address of the search key," and to "determining a set of masks using the encoded mask vector," and to "forming a routing table query based upon the search key and a longest mask of the set of masks, indicated by the encoded mask vector to be the longest mask of the set of masks."

The Examiner refers to paragraph 73 of Hunter as relating to the recitations of Claim 6 as originally filed. However, paragraph 73 describes only representing an address and its associated mask by embedding a mask length indicator in the address information of a forwarding database. There is no suggestion in Hunter of using a mask table that contains encoded mask vectors, nor of using an encoded mask vector when applying a search key to a routing table.

The Examiner also refers to paragraphs 41 and 42 which mention a longest match search. However, this section makes no mention of a separate mask table containing encoded mask vectors nor of using such a table in performing the longest match search.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Hunter. Claims 8, 12, 16, 19, 23, and 29 contain similar limitations and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

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The remaining claims are dependent and are believed to be allowable therefore as well as for the limitations set forth specifically in each claim, respectively.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

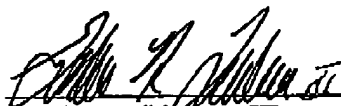
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension. Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 1/19/5


Gordon R. Laideen III
Reg. No. 33,192

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980

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